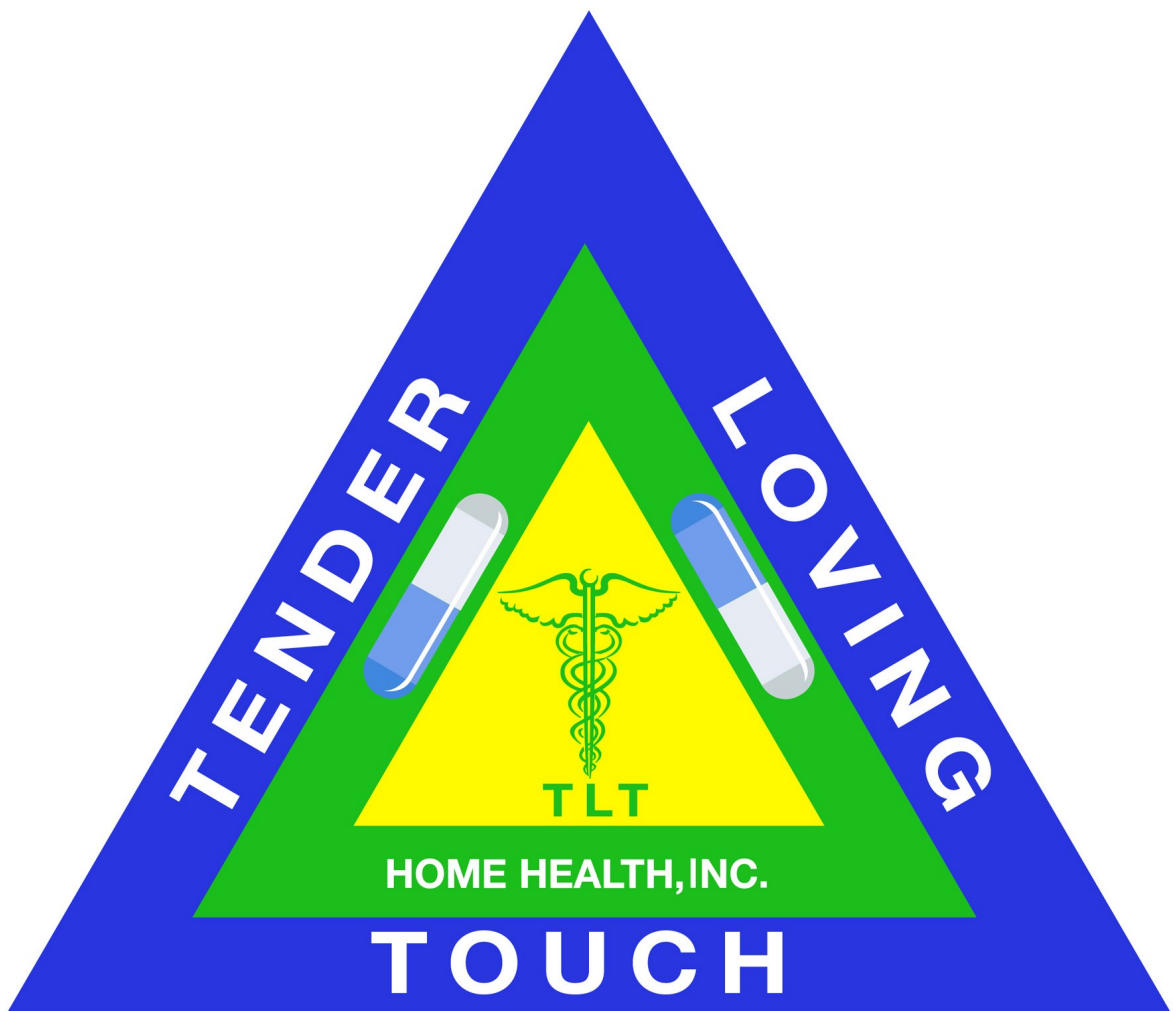


INFECTION CONTROL



UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS

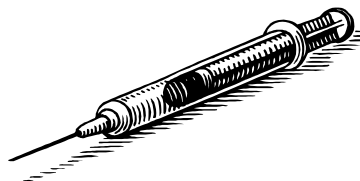
Any patient can be infected with HIV (the AIDS virus) even with no symptoms. It takes 6 weeks to 6 months (or possibly even longer) after exposure for a person to develop HIV antibodies. Therefore, nurses must use precautions with blood and body fluids from ALL patients to protect themselves from exposure to HIV. These precautions also protect against other infectious organisms, such as Hepatitis B.

1. *Wash hands before and after all contact with patients or blood/body fluids (including contact with items soiled with blood/body fluids).*
2. *Handle the blood of all patients as potentially infectious.*
3. *Wear gloves for potential contact with blood and body fluids (e.g. venipuncture, perineal care, oral care).*
4. *Place used syring **IMMEDIATELY** in nearby impermeable container; **DO NOT** recap or manipulate needles in any way.*
5. *Wear protective eyewear and mask if splatter with blood or body fluids is possible (e.g. suctioning, NG tube insert).*
6. *Wear gowns when splash with blood or body fluids is anticipated (e.g. enema, changing soiled linen).*
7. *Handle all linen soiled with blood and/or body secretions as potentially infectious.*
8. *Handle all laboratory specimens as potentially infectious.*
9. *Wear mask for TB and other respiratory organism (HIV is not airborne).*
10. *Keep resuscitation device with you at all times. You cannot predict when CPR will be needed.*

DISPOSAL TIPS FOR HOME HEALTH CARE

YOU can help prevent injury, illness and pollution by following some simple steps when you dispose of the sharp objects and contaminated materials you use in administering health care in your home. You should place:

- ✓ ***Needles***
- ✓ ***Syringes***
- ✓ ***Lancets, and***
- ✓ ***Other Sharp Objects***



In a hard – plastic or metal container with a screw – on or tightly secured lid.

A coffee can will do, but you should be sure to reinforce the plastic lid with heavy – duty tape. Do not put sharp objects in any container that will be recycled or returned to a store. Do not use glass or clear plastic containers. Finally, make sure that you keep containers with sharp objects out of the reach of young children.

We also recommend that:

- ✓ ***Soiled Bandages***
- ✓ ***Disposable Sheets, and***
- ✓ ***Medical Gloves***



Be placed